

## Foreign journalists return to Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi government admitted foreign journalists for the first time in over a month Friday, promising to escort them on trips to cities in both northern and southern Iraq where anti-government unrest erupted in late February. Letting in nine foreign television stations and six print reporters seemed to indicate that the government was confident its forces had gained the upper hand over the insurgents. Reports from Iraq's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, Cyprus, have quoted Shiite Muslim insurgent leaders as saying they controlled the holy city of Karbala and other southern cities. But the U.S. State Department and refugees fleeing to the Kuwaiti border indicated the Iraqi army had the upper hand. In the north, the government said it had taken the important oil centre of Kirkuk away from Kurdish rebels. The rebels claim the fight over the city continued Friday. "The foreign press will visit Kirkuk, which was liberated on Thursday," one Information Ministry official said. He said during their two-week stay, the press will be escorted to the southern cities of Basra, Karbala, Najaf, Nasiriyah and Hillah.

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## Zimbabwe wants genuine peace in Mideast

HARARE (R) — The foreign minister of Zimbabwe, which chaired the U.N. Security Council during the Gulf war in January on a rotation basis, said Friday his country wanted genuine peace in the Middle East. Commenting on the latest U.S.-initiated draft on the Gulf now before the Security Council, Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said Zimbabwe had been studying the resolution and would consult with other non-aligned nations at the United Nations, the national Ziana news agency reported. "We would want to see a comprehensive, fair and tolerant resolution which will bring genuine peace not only to the Gulf but to the Middle East," Ziana quoted him as telling local journalists. Mr. Shamuyarira said Zimbabwe would have some "very fundamental" comments to make on the U.S. draft resolution, the agency reported. It would insist that the resolution finally passed by the Security Council should end all hostilities in the Gulf.

## Turkish Kurds vow to step up unrest

BEIRUT (R) — A Kurdish group fighting in Turkey vowed Friday to escalate its war for an independent state and said it would spread to northern Iraq. "Our party will escalate its war of national liberation... and spread it under wise leadership to southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq)," the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) said in a statement. In an interview with Reuters last Sunday, PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan denounced one Iraqi Kurdish group, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) as Turkish agents. A representative of Mr. Barzani and Jalal Talabani, who heads the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, met officials in Ankara this month to seek aid for the rebellion against the Iraqi government.

## Tunisia suspends main students' union

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian authorities suspended the country's main student union, the pro-Islamic Tunisian General Union of Students (UGTE), Friday for activities in breach of public order, official sources said. Union sources said police closed UGTE headquarters in central Tunis. The official news agency TAP said the union was suspended because petrol bombs and anti-government leaflets were found on its premises last Tuesday.

## U.N. council prods Cypriots to cooperate

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council prodded Greek and Turkish Cypriots Thursday to cooperate with the United Nations in resuming discussions on reuniting their divided island under a federal system. A statement issued on behalf of all 15 council members urged all parties to cooperate fully with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar "in order to resolve without delay the outstanding issues." Mr. Perez de Cuellar told the council on Wednesday an "agreed outline" of a solution to the Cyprus problem should be possible within a few months if all parties cooperated.

## U.N. official to coordinate return of Kuwaiti property

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A Canadian U.N. assistant secretary general, J. Richard Foran, has been named as the official responsible for coordinating the return of Kuwaiti property taken by Iraq, a U.N. spokesman said. Kuwait says property worth tens of billions of dollars, ranging from gold and currency to computers and museum exhibits, was seized by Iraq after its invasion of the emirate last August. A Security Council resolution requires its return, with arrangements to be made through the United Nations. Mr. Foran, 57, heads the U.N.'s office of general services and previously was in charge of its financial services.

# Iraqi army retakes control of Kirkuk

Combined agency dispatches

KURDS FIGHTING The government said Friday they had retreated from the northern oil city of Kirkuk after fierce battles with government troops.

"Our forces retreated from Kirkuk. They are about two kilometres outside the city," a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of several rebel groups, told Reuters in Damascus.

Troops loyal to the government of President Saddam Hussein also recaptured what was believed to be the last major town held by rebels in southern Iraq.

Iraqi troops used helicopters, missiles and heavy artillery to seize control of Samawa on the Euphrates River Thursday night after five days of bitter fighting.

Reports from the border town of Safwan said Iraqi forces had entered the town.

Samawa, northwest of the southern port of Basra and straddling the main road through the Euphrates Valley, appeared to be the last rebel stronghold in southern Iraq to fall to government troops.

Rebels and refugees at Safwan said the government controlled other cities and towns.

Ramadan, 32, an Egyptian barber from Basra, said Iran had supplied the rebels with arms, smuggled into the country inside

truckloads of food sent as humanitarian aid late last year.

Mr. Hammoudi is head of the Arab desk at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. He spoke to reporters at Cairo airport when he arrived to represent Baghdad at an Arab League meeting Saturday.

The Iraqi army newspaper Al Qudsia reported Friday that the assault on rebel strongholds was "proceeding well and according to plan" in the north.

Kurdish spokesman claimed earlier Friday that their forces still controlled most of the city which was under heavy bombardment by artillery, missiles and tanks.

The city, with a population of about 270,000 had been in Kurdish hands since last week.

In Cairo, an Iraqi envoy said Friday the post-war rebellion against the government was nearly under control.

The situation has stabilised after the Iraqi armed forces were able to gain control over most areas in the south and (the northern towns of) Kirkuk and Daquq were cleared of rebel forces, Saad Kassem Al Hammoudi told reporters.

"The armed forces are on the way to gaining control of all areas

in northern Iraq," he added.

Mr. Hammoudi is head of the Arab desk at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. He spoke to reporters at Cairo airport when he arrived to represent Baghdad at an Arab League meeting Saturday.

The White House rebuffed a request from the Iraqi Kurdistan Front asking President George Bush to help them.

The leaders, Jalal Talabani and Masoud Barzani, asked the United States to intervene to prevent the army from using "heavy weapons of mass destruction against civilians," including fixed-wing aircraft and combat helicopters.

"But I believe personally that it is a time for diplomacy, quiet, active. Maybe on behalf of the five (U.N. Security Council permanent members), maybe with the help of people of goodwill throughout," he added.

Mr. Hammoudi is head of the Arab desk at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. He spoke to reporters at Cairo airport when he arrived to represent Baghdad at an Arab League meeting Saturday.

Asked if the United States might consider providing rebels with arms such as Stinger missiles, Mr. Popadiuk said, "our mandate was to get Iraq out of Kuwait. We fulfilled that mandate. Our next step is to get a permanent ceasefire so that our troops can be withdrawn."

## Shamir reiterates rejection of any return of Arab land

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday that for him even talk about swapping the occupied Arab territories for peace was like stabbing in the heart.

Mr. Shamir also contended in an interview with the mass-circulation newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth that expelling Palestinians helped reduce violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel this week ordered the expulsion of four Palestinians.

The United States has criticised expulsions and is pursuing a Middle East settlement based on Israel exchanging land in return for peace with Arab countries and the Palestinians.

Asked if he ruled out ceding the Golan Heights to Syria, Mr. Shamir said: "The territory is part of the nation's soul. When someone talks to me about territory, he is stabbing me in the heart. I cannot even talk about it. It is part of my being, of me."

Mr. Shamir said he could not prevent the subject being raised at future peace talks, but the 75-year-old prime minister added: "If I still have any influence, I will strive to see that we come out of them healthy, complete and without diminished power."

Israeli hardliners have been increasingly nervous about what they consider hints from government officials that Israel might negotiate the future of the Golan Heights in talks with Syria.

Last week Mr. Shamir cleared any ambiguity, saying: "They could say to us 'we want the Golan Heights' and we'll say 'we won't give it to you. So here are your negotiations.'

"We are always ready to negotiate in good faith," Mr. Shamir told the Jerusalem Post in a separate interview Friday. "But if you ask me now if there is a chance to change the territorial situation with Syria, my answer would be negative."

Syria has demanded the Golan Heights back before discussing peace with the Jewish state.

In Washington, questioned about a New York Times story asserting the administration is considering co-hosting with the Soviet Union a series of Middle East talks, spokesman Roman Popadiuk said no decisions have been made on any of the options under discussion.

"There are a number of ideas floating out there," Mr. Popadiuk said. "On how to get the peace process engaged again. We've had a number of discussions with foreign governments;

we've had a number of internal discussions on options and ways to proceed. No decisions have been made on any of these various options that may be pursued. Everything is still in the very rudimentary discussion stage."

Told his remarks were not inconsistent with the thrust of the story, he reminded reporters of Secretary of State James Baker's remarks on return from the Middle East, to the effect that there is no benefit to be derived from airing options, and that confidentiality is the heart of diplomacy.

The New York Times said the Bush administration is exploring the possibility of convening regional peace talks, with the United States and the Soviet Union hosts, that would serve as the opening for direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Quoting Western and Middle East diplomats, it said while Mr. Baker has been very tight lipped about what he is trying to do in his talks with Middle East leaders, an approach that appears to be getting a lot of consideration would be for the United States and the Soviet Union to be hosts for a ceremonial opening "event" that might be

(Continued on page 4)

## Yeltsin pushes anti-Gorbachev campaign after massive rally

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's six years of reforms were not a period of restructuring but "the last phase of the stagnation period," radical reformer Boris Yeltsin said Friday.

Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Gorbachev's archivist and an enemy of hardline communists, spoke to the Russian Congress one day after more than 150,000 people rallied to support his reforms.

Mr. Gorbachev had tried to stop the rally by deploying 50,000 troops and police. But demonstrators — numbering 150,000 to 200,000 by one count — turned out to support the leader of the Russian Republic anyway. There was no violence.

One abuse of human rights cited was the Soviet system's use of residency permits that prohibit citizens from freely moving from one part of the country to another. He called this practice "a humiliating situation."

Mr. Yeltsin condemned the leaders who failed to fulfil promises of glasnost — openness — and the priority of human values at the start of the perestroika

reforms. Speaking to about 1,000 Russian Congress delegates gathered in the white marble and plaster grand Kremlin Palace, Mr. Yeltsin borrowed a favourite Gorbachev phrase and turned it against his foe. Mr. Gorbachev frequently referred to the 1964-1982 rule of Leonid Brezhnev as the "era of stagnation."

The objective results of the past six years demonstrate that what we have been witnessing was not perestroika but the last phase of the stagnation period," Mr. Yeltsin said his address, interrupted several times by warm applause.

He also lost a bid to prevent opponents from delivering a report on their views after his own. The congress voted 615-363 to hear the alternative speech.

The votes appeared to be only a temporary setback for Mr. Yeltsin. On Thursday, the congress overwhelmingly supported him, voting by nearly 2-to-1 to denounce the three-week ban on rallies decreed by Mr. Gorbachev's cabinet.

(Continued on page 4)

## King, Mitterrand back quiet Mideast diplomacy

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said Friday that "quiet, active" diplomacy would best promote peace in the Middle East, and France pledged to work with Jordan to develop initiatives.

Speaking after talks with President Francois Mitterrand, the King said an international conference on the Middle East would "eventually... be a must" because a comprehensive peace would need guarantees.

"But I believe personally that it is a time for diplomacy, quiet, active. Maybe on behalf of the five (U.N. Security Council permanent members), maybe with the help of people of goodwill throughout," he added.

Mr. Mitterrand's spokesman, Hubert Vedrine, said: "France is available for a joint examination by our foreign ministers of initiative which could be taken by France and Jordan, and at all levels, to deal with the problems of the region."

King Hussein's visit to Paris is his first to Europe since the Gulf war.

King Hussein said his talks with Mr. Mitterrand were "the most frank and the most constructive" of all they had bad over the years.

"We hope that we are on the threshold of doing all we can to ensure that the window of opportunity for peace, for human dignity, for security and a better future for all the people of our area will not be lost," the King added.

France, which long believed an international conference was the only way to bring Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians to the negotiating table, shelved that position following the way to support a diplomatic peace drive led by Washington.

The King echoed the new French position but added that "Eventually, if you look at Security Council Resolutions 242 or 338, or land-for-peace, or any other formula, it all ends up with Security Council guarantees. So the conference at some point is a must."

In apparent reference to the conference on security and cooperation in Europe, a 35-nation process which gradually dismantled

tiled East-West barriers over a period of nearly 20 years. King Hussein said "the way to the future for us in our region is along the European experience."

"I think this is what will have to happen, it's realistic, it's appropriate," he said.

"There have been far too many ideas and plans that have kept us going in circles for years. Now we have an opportunity. I believe the window is there and I hope the principles that are applied will be the same everywhere."

King Hussein and President Mitterrand also discussed in a closed meeting bilateral relations. The meeting was followed by an extensive meeting attended by members of both the Jordanian and French delegations. Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al Marri and the Jordanian ambassador to France.

King Hussein flew to Paris on the first leg of a working visit which will also take him to Germany.

Upon arrival in Paris, the King was received by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and senior French officials, as well as the Jordanian ambassador and Arab ambassadors accredited to France.

King Hussein Friday received French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Defence Minister Pierre Jox. The King discussed with the three officials bilateral relations and scopes of bilateral cooperation, Petra reported.

## Andreotti resigns

ROME (AP) — Premier Giulio Andreotti resigned Friday, triggering the collapse of Italy's 19th post-war government.

Mr. Andreotti announced his resignation in a speech to the Senate that was interrupted by catcalls from the opposition. He was to formally submit it afterward to President Francesco Craxi.

The government collapse came as no surprise. At 30 months, Mr. Andreotti's government already had lasted twice as long as the average.

For weeks, the coalition parties have been squabbling over such issues as the budget deficit, the fight against the mafia, and changes in the structure of Italy's post-war government.

Honourable senators, I think it's our duty not to ignore a climate of exhaustion that has been accumulating for months," Mr. Andreotti said.

"In resigning, I am confident that all this... will give more strength to national policy, increasing and resurrecting in citizens their faith in the state and in its representative institutions," Mr. Andreotti said.

Mr. Cossiga will choose a politician from the five parties in the governing coalition to try to put together a new government.

Mr. Andreotti, of the dominant Christian Democrat Party, had planned to reshuffle his government this week to address the recent problems. But he was blocked by former Premier Bettino Craxi, head of the second-biggest party, the Socialists.

"We need to set up a government that will last until the end of the legislature, and agree on a programme of things to be done that will have a certain consistency and be fairly binding," Mr. Craxi said Thursday.

The legislature's term ends in 1992.

Italy's main opposition party, the Democratic Party of the Left, boycotted Mr. Andreotti's Senate speech to protest the fact that parliament had no say in the government crisis. The party was formerly the Communists.

## League meeting may be perfunctory

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab League diplomats hoped to breathe new life into the strained alliance at their first large gathering Saturday since the Gulf war.

Arab relations were battered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait last August and the Gulf conflict that ensued. But diplomats say the council session in Cairo will provide a forum for pursuing Arab brotherhood.

However, on the eve of the conference, Arab diplomatic sources said the meeting will be adjourned after the opening session. They said Saudi Arabia's permanent representative, Taher Radwan, will request the suspension to allow for more time to promote greater cohesion.

They did not say when the next meeting will be, but they said it is expected to be at foreign ministers' level.

The Arab League Council session involves lower-level officials from the 21-nation group, including envoys from Iraq and Kuwait.

Iraq's participation seems to signal Baghdad's desire to end its isolation from most Arabs and "return to the mainstream" that the Arab League represents, some diplomats said.

Iraq will be represented at the meeting by Foreign Ministry official Saad Qassem Al Hammudi.

"Iraq's participation in the

## Shoman chairs

# Middle East News

## Four killed, 27 wounded in Beirut car bomb blast

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb blast killed four people and wounded 27 in Beirut Friday, hours after the government ordered Lebanon's private armies to give up their weapons.

The blast tore along a busy street, setting ablaze about 20 cars, blowing out windows at the Armenian Orthodox Patriarchate and damaging several shops. One of the four dead was an unidentified Lebanese soldier.

"We can't recognise him from his injuries," said an army officer, picking up the soldiers' blood-soaked jacket and bag from the devastated street as rescuers helped wounded civilians out of damaged cars.

Witnesses said an explosives-packed Buick blew up outside the patriarchate at a juncture with a coastal highway in east Beirut's Antelias district.

The explosion was about 50 metres from the site of another car bomb blast March 20 which killed eight people and wounded 38 as Defence Minister Michel Al Murr's convoy was passing.

Security and hospital sources said 27 people were wounded in Friday's blast.

The security sources said the Buick had 100 kilogrammes of

explosives in it. The car had been damaged in the March 20 blast and was pushed to the side. Sources said Friday's casualties were lower than could have been expected because the explosion came at the start of the Eastern holidays and traffic was relatively light.

The government announced late on Thursday that all Lebanese and Palestinian militias should disarm by the end of April or face being forced to by Lebanese and Syrian troops.

Abolishing the private armies of sectarian and political groups is a vital step in consolidating a peace plan implemented last year to put a final end to nearly 16 years of civil war.

Information Minister Albert Mansour said the army would use force if any group disobeyed the order. He said the army would call for help if necessary from Syria's estimated 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

Mr. Murr, 59, escaped the March 20 assassination attempt with bruises but his car was wrecked after being flung upside down. There were no claims of responsibility for either car bombing.

Thursday's statement said the decision applied to non-Lebanese armed groups, apparent refer-

ence to Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) estimated 6,000 guerrillas in South Lebanon and 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards based in East Lebanon.

There was no immediate reaction from the PLO or the Iranian Guards to the government plan.

The Lebanese army will carry out a phased deployment throughout Lebanon between May 1 and Sept. 30, said the government statement that was issued after a seven-hour session chaired by Mr. President Elias Hrawi Thursday.

"After the expiry of the period for dissolving the militias, the Lebanese army will be instructed to deploy gradually in all Lebanese regions. Force will be used to eliminate resistance and opposition and the help of sisterly Syrian troops will be enlisted if need be," the statement said.

The government also ordered all the eight radio and four television stations founded by militias during the civil war to exercise self-censorship to "observe the requirements of national reconciliation to end the state of war."

A committee to oversee the censorship, including representatives from the information ministry, will be formed, the statement said.

Schwarzkopf says he apologised to Bush

RIYADH (API) — General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf war, said Friday that he apologised to U.S. President George Bush and that he supported the decision to end the war 100 per cent.

Gen. Schwarzkopf seemed eager to repair any differences with Mr. Bush as quickly as possible. He made the remarks in an impromptu session after visiting the joint information bureau of the U.S. central command.

"I apologise to the president. I said I am extremely sorry that a poor choice of words on my part in any way would result in dishonour cast upon you." Gen. Schwarzkopf said a day after he spoke on the phone with Mr. Bush.

"He's my commander-in-chief and he said, 'I'm telling you, just forget it. It's not important.'

The dustup began after comments that Gen. Schwarzkopf made in a U.S. television Wednesday night in which he appeared to suggest that he had disagreed with Dr. Bush's decision to call a ceasefire to the war on Feb. 27.

"Frankly, my recommendation had been, you know, continue the march. I mean he had them in a rout," Gen. Schwarzkopf said in the interview, taped March 20.

Mr. Bush, upon learning Wednesday of the general's comments, declared: "There was total agreement on when this war should end," and Defence Secretary Richard Cheney said a statement saying Gen. Schwarzkopf "raised no objection to terminating hostilities."

But Friday, Gen. Schwarzkopf said: "If I could do the whole thing all over again, I know I would change the word 'recommend' to say 'we initially planned.' Because that's what it was."

On Thursday, Mr. Bush called Gen. Schwarzkopf and told him "this is much ado about nothing," according to deputy presidential press secretary Roman Popadiuk.

The spokesman said "Mr. Bush assured the general that 'they're on the same wavelength and that this is one of those little irritants that... shouldn't, you know, become any big thing."

Mr. Popadiuk had refused to say what Gen. Schwarzkopf told Mr. Bush.

The navy report said court-martial proceedings will be held in Subic, but no date has yet been set.

All three sailors were flown back to Subic in February while an investigation was under way.

The martial law investigation corresponds to grand jury inquiries in civilian law.

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Mr. Schwarzkopf said without an immediate clearance programme, "acute danger could remain for years to come. In my opinion, this may be one of the most urgent humanitarian needs, as summer begins and the population, adults and children, begins to return to their country from exile," he found.

These mines are reported to be able to float, so "the future location of at least some may be anticipated to depend on tide and currents, and to present a threat to the coasts of other Gulf states," he found.

Three Istanbul bank branches were bombed and a passenger bus was set ablaze late Thursday, according to the reports from Turkish news agencies and newswires.

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## Ministers assess extent of damages in south

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet is expected Saturday to receive a detailed report about the damages caused to public and private property, in southern Jordan, by the recent rain that brought about widespread devastation.

The Cabinet has entrusted Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh to make a tour of the affected regions in the south and to submit a report about the extent of damages, assistance needed by the local inhabitants, and estimates about the cost of repair.

Mr. Rawabdeh conducted the field tour Thursday and Wednesday in the company of Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh and other officials, and was briefed on the situation by the local governors of Karak, Tafleah and Maan.

Following the tour, the minister told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that damages in the Tafleah Governorate were estimated at JD 300,000, and in Maan at JD 250,000, but he did not make any estimates of the worst hit regions of Karak and Shobak.

Mr. Rawabdeh said that at least JD 60,000 will be needed to cover the cost of repair work which has already started in different regions. The government is expected to make allocations for all the costs.

According to the minister, work on repairing the roads could take up to three weeks to be completed, while repair of the bridges could take up to three months.

At least eight people were re-

ported killed and scores of others were injured in the rain and storm that caused widespread floods, landslides and severe damage to the bridges, crops, retaining walls and other property, and caused the death of thousands of heads of sheep.

The floods inundated homes, warehouses, and government departments and caused disruption of road, telephone, and other services.

Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh was quoted as saying that the storm that hit Karak caused a catastrophe to the region. "The Ministry of Agriculture has already started to help the local communities overcome the consequences of the storm in cooperation with the ministries of public works and water and irrigation," Alawneh said.

He said that the Ministry of

Agriculture would be ready to supply the local inhabitants and farmers with all types of olive and fruit trees, free of charge, so that they can resume their work.

Several Parliament deputies from the southern constituencies, accompanying the two ministers on their two-day tour of the south, urged the government to offer the local farmers compensation for their losses.

Yousef Mubaynah said that the local farmers had lost all their fruit trees, while Matir Al Busantji said that unless the government moved fast, the local population would suffer a great deal.

Nine emergency committees have been reported at work already, coordinating and supervising the various types of activities required to restore normal life to the southern region.

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He said that the allocations would be given to the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (OAF), Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and Save the Children Federation, which will give direct loans to individuals wishing to set up small-size projects.

It is expected that such allocations will provide 200 job opportunities for the poor, Abu Ayyash said.

The fund has also approved the allocation of JD 150,000 for OAF to enable it to establish five centres for raising livestock in Maan, Karak, Tafleah, Maafraq and Amman governorates.

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## Jordan Times

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## Arrogance that flows

**ISRAEL**, more than any other state in the region, has come out of the Gulf war the most arrogant. Its contention, sadly parroted by some Western officials, is that the war has shown determination in Arab minds and especially Palestinians' to destroy the Jewish state. Therefore, while the U.S. Arab allies are urged to start confidence-building moves towards Israel, the Jewish state takes all the measures it finds suitable to suppress the Palestinian people and their legitimate aspirations and rights. Shouldn't Israel as well be asked to show willingness for peace? And what causes the lost confidence between Arabs and Israelis except Israel's brutal treatment of the Palestinians and the usurpation of their lands?

The deportation of Palestinians, the demolition of their homes, the closure of their educational institutions and the internment of their children and the Likud's policy of shoot to kill are measures of confidence-wrecking that will not only threaten whatever peace process is in progress. These policies will also contribute to more hatred, radicalism and fanaticism on both sides of the divide. In addition, they are likely to endanger whatever relations that developed between the U.S. and its Arab allies. Any hope that the U.S. had for convincing Arab extremists of the possibility of peaceful coexistence with the Jewish state will evaporate in thin air when Israel's brutal measures begin to have their effects on the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians.

While the U.S. could keep its coalition at the time of war, it is very doubtful that it will keep it now, applying still double standards to similar causes. The Arabs have always looked at the expulsion of Palestinian grassroot leaders as a prelude to the transfer of the Palestinians from their land. The inclusion in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet of a minister who advocates transfer was an ominous sign of the ill-intentions of the Israeli leadership. The move, which came at the height of the Gulf crisis, could not have escaped the minds of Arab leaders and the Arab masses.

Furthermore, the expulsion of Palestinian local leaders is a flagrant violation of the U.N. charter, the Geneva conventions and numerous Security Council resolutions on the issue. While more Security Council resolutions are being imposed on Iraq, the U.S., now the self-appointed leader of the council and the architect-to-be of the new world order, is expected to apply the same standards when dealing with the conflicts of the Middle East. Continued Israeli violation of Palestinian human and political rights will only bring more fanaticism and this is the lesson that the U.S. ought to learn from its own experiences in this part of the world.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A visit to Paris by His Majesty King Hussein, and a visit to Amman by the speaker of the French national assembly present an important chance for corroborating France's understanding of Jordan's position vis-à-vis the recent events in the Middle East and the Gulf region. Said Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Jordan which has an important role to play in the peace-making process, believes that Paris should be a key factor in giving impetus to this process, benefiting from the present opportune regional and international political climate, as was explained by the King to the visiting French parliamentarian, the daily continued. What the Arabs ask France to do is to deal with the international legitimacy in an equitable and fair manner, and through the same criteria for the sake of implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the Palestine problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper pointed out. What is needed now, the paper added, is for France to display determination and will, similar to those manifested during the Gulf crisis. Israel no doubt believes that France will not have that determination and that the world community will do nothing to stop atrocities like the deportation of Palestinian citizens from their homeland, said the paper. Israel, and in defiance of the United Nations last December's condemnation of similar deportations, has just deported four Palestinians, and has displayed total disregard to France's regret and Washington's dismay, the paper argued. It said that Paris take a serious position to deter such Israeli actions. The Israelis would no doubt re-examine their present oppressive policies against the Palestinian population.

A columnist in Al Dastour Arabic daily directs public attention to the excessive cost of higher education in Jordan and calls for offering the poor as well as the rich equal opportunities for higher learning. Issa Shuaibi supports the emergence in Jordan of institutions of higher education like community colleges and private universities serving side by side with the government-controlled institutions, but he notes that private colleges and universities are being set up at a very high cost which subsequently requires charging the students high fees which only the rich and the wealthy can afford. The writer says that the private universities are being established on expensive plots of land and are being supplied by very expensive facilities and equipment, making the operational cost quite expensive and consequently requiring higher fees from the students, unlike the situation in other Third World countries where universities operate in simple and modest buildings and even barracks, offering the chance to all types of students to acquire higher education at very reasonable price. It could be argued that building operations and the purchase of land are bound to stimulate the economic sector in the country, and this is by far true, says Shuaibi. But he notes that by building expensive universities, the country is opening the door only to wealthy students and closing it to the children of the limited-income groups. He suggests that private universities whose aim is to offer people the chance to learn without having to go abroad should be set up at a lower price so that operational cost can be reasonable with no heavy burden on society.

## View From Amman

# The Arabs and the New World Order

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

THE Gulf crisis of 1990 constitutes a shock of greater proportion than that of 1967 and the total loss of Palestine to the Zionists. It is hoped that the Arab leadership which seems to have learned nothing from the earlier disaster, would learn something from this one. For as this century is drawing to its close the Western-Zionist plans for the further fragmentation of the Arab World are now more evident than ever. The sadder aspect of this crisis is not only that our Muslim neighbours in Iran and Turkey joined the so-called alliance against Iraq, but that most Arab nations were either in on the kill or simply stood aside wringing their hands or mumbling incoherently.

Several reasons account for the gloomier prospects of the Arab World following this latest catastrophe. First, that we are not only on the door-step of the twenty-first century, but a new international order sponsored again by the United States and international Zionism too. Three times in this century presidents of the U.S. sponsored a vision of a new international order: President Woodrow Wilson sponsored the idea of the League of Nations and a world that is "free" and democratic in the wake of World War I; President Franklin D. Roosevelt sponsored the United Nations Organisation with similar ideas after the World War II; and now President George Bush is advancing the idea of a New World Order after war against the Arabs disguised as a battle against Iraq.

Two immediate remarks are in order. First, that in all three cases the Zionist influence is very evident; and second, that whereas the ideas and ideals behind the first two attempts were rather clear, that is not the case with regard to the new idea of

President Bush. What is meant by this New Order? Who governs it and how? Will it coexist side by side with the United Nations Organisation or will it supplant it if and how and why?

These questions are the more immediate for us now in the Arab World than ever before. Several reasons account for the urgency and the immediacy of these questions. First, because for the first time in modern history, one nation, the U.S., seems to have coopted the international will in a fashion that promises to be of long duration. Second, because of the Arab World has never been so utterly polarised around opposing camps or so fertile with hatred and animosities. Third, because of the total failure of Arab institutions — if any ever existed — and leaders to deal with the terrible crisis thus inviting penetration from the outside and providing it with both an Islamic and an Arab umbrella of legitimacy. Fourth, because of the terrific shock to the psyche of the average Arab watching his nation rendered so helpless and so prostrate, tearing and dismembering its own self while being beaten ruthlessly by others. No, Iraq was not right in occupying Kuwait. Iraq should have withdrawn. Iraq should not have resorted to violence against Kuwait or its people. Iraq made many mistakes. All these are truisms that need no elaboration or discussion, but the question that will linger in Arab memory will revolve around whether the deed deserved that much punishment.

The shattering of the Arab hunger for oneness will be blamed by Arab memory as much on our leaders as on the Zionised West and its cohorts. Each people have a memory that is distinct from

that which is written in its annals and history books. It was Buddha who said: some twenty six centuries ago, a half truth is equal to a whole lie. No amount of condiments poured over the "facts" of this crisis will cover the stench of the tens of thousands of Arabs, especially Iraqis whose corpses still lie in our Arabian deserts now perfumed with oil. We can blame whomever we may wish to blame, but we must know that even a one-eyed man can see, and more, even the blind can discern. History has time and will judge.

It is thus we find ourselves searching for what we should do next. The first question that comes to mind is have we learned anything? Have our leaders?

It is good that Iraq is democratising. The process is made more painful because it is conducted in the shadow of foreign bayonets as well as internal rebellion and the conduct of unneighbourly neighbours. Still it is good and a step in the right direction.

We need new input and new ideas. We must do that quickly and sincerely and not in the usual manner of out-witting our people in the hope of maintaining the privileges of the ruling clique, keen, very keen on the status quo come what may. It is said that the Chinese write the word crisis by combining the two symbols for opportunity and danger. There is danger and there is opportunity now, for while an end to the hostilities has been reached, there still is no conclusion. Let the conclusion this time be a genuine search for new vistas and new ideas based on a free dialogue and not simply statements by the leader to his people. Let us remember that in a sick body even a health cell is doomed.

## Bloody shambles in the wake of war

By Denis Healey

WHEN President Bush first predicted that the U.N. sanctions against Iraq could lay the foundation for a new world order, millions hoped and believed he might be right. I was one of them. The end of the cold war seemed to have established the habit of cooperation between the superpowers. So the United Nations would be able for the first time to fulfill its intended role — as the framework for a world society in which disputes would be settled without war, if fighting did break out, it could be brought to an end by a United Nations police force.

Six months later things look very different. We now know that within weeks of his speech about a new world order, President Bush had already abandoned the hope that sanctions would work as fast as he thought necessary.

Even as he was declaring that the sole purpose of American forces in the Gulf was to deter attack on Saudi Arabia, he was planning to double their number so that he could start bombing Iraq in January and launch a ground attack in February. None of these plans was disclosed in advance to the United Nations, to his coalition partners, or even to his own Congress. He did not disguise his irritation when France and the Soviet Union attempted to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The war which began on Jan. 16 did not lay the foundation of a new world order — quite the reverse. The Pentagon has claimed that it may have cost 200,000 Iraqi lives. It certainly came close to destroying Iraq as a viable state.

The Gulf war split the European Community and severely strained America's links with Germany and Japan. Bush managed to maintain his relationship with Gorbachev only by securing \$3 billion for Moscow from Saudi Arabia and by playing down American revision at the crack-down in the Baltic states. He retained Chinese acquiescence in the war only by abandoning the sanctions imposed after the massacre in Tiananmen Square.

Meanwhile, American policy for a new security system in the area has become a shambles. Though Iran occupies the eastern shores of the Gulf and developed good working relations with the Arab Gulf states during the crisis, it has been excluded from the proposed security pact.

The contributions of distant Egypt and Syria will depend on massive economic aid from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the sheikhdoms of the lower Gulf. Yet it is far from clear that any of the oil states will have enough wealth to spare. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are already obliged to borrow abroad, and if the Saudis double their pre-war production, as

seems likely, that will require massive investment, and the price of oil may then fall to low for even the domestic needs of the other oil producers: the cost of reconstructing Kuwait is estimated at some \$50 billion.

A solution of the Palestinian problem seems further away than ever. Yet none of the other Arab states could join Egypt in recognising Israel unless a solution is at least seen to be on the way. So the Middle East looks like remaining a dangerous and unstable region into which to continue pouring arms. But although Secretaries Baker insisted that "the time has come to reduce arms flow into an area that is already over-militarised," the Pentagon has been planning to sell \$18 billion of arms to the Arab states and Turkey. John Major is not better; Britain will have the largest contingent at the arms fair in Dubai next November; Israel is certain to demand and to get arms to offset such sales. Yet none of the Gulf states has enough men to use sophisticated weapons on this scale. On Aug. 2 last year the Kuwaiti government simply handed over billions of dollars worth of its tanks and armoured vehicles to the Iraqis without firing a shot, although its military attaché in Basra had given it a week's warning of the invasion.

Recognising these problems, Bush is now considering a freeze on arms exports to the Middle East. His officials talk of "rotating thousands of American soldiers through Saudi Arabia for months at a time and conducting large amphibious exercises on the Arabian Peninsula." It seems unlikely that the Gulf Arabs could carry either the financial or political cost of this type of security. Muslim fundamentalists would find it intolerable and the presence of foreign troops has already shaken the stability of Saudi society.

In the end, the financial weakness of the U.S. is likely to rule out the idea of establishing a Pax Americana in the Middle East — or anywhere else outside the western hemisphere. In the Gulf war

it took 75 per cent of America's tactical aircraft and 40 per cent of its tanks to defeat a country with

the national product of Portugal. Washington could not have afforded such an effort without pledges of aid from its allies amounting to \$53.9 billion — well above its likely cost. This will never happen again. Nor is the U.S. likely to continue maintaining forces which would permit another action on this scale.

On the contrary. By the time President Bush leaves office, America is likely to owe the rest of the world a thousand billion dollars, requiring an annual payment of some \$70 billion in interest. Until recently this colossal external deficit has been largely financed out of Japanese and German surpluses. Germany's surplus has been wiped out by the cost of assimilating eastern Germany. The Japanese are now repatriating capital to strengthen their own banking system. Without big increases in taxation, the U.S. will have to make big cuts in its defence spending. Congress's reservation at what it sees as Japanese and German disloyalty during the Gulf crisis will make this even more likely.

Though Japan has promised to provide \$12 billion towards the cost of Gulf crisis, 60 per cent of Americans now see Japan as their main enemy. They are beginning to realise that one reason why Japan is superior to them in civil high technology is because America spends far too much on the sort of military technology which helped to win the Gulf war.

When the strains of adjustment to America's debt combine with the jealousy of the "fat cats" in Europe and Japan, there could be a lurch in American foreign policy away from the very idea of a Pax Americana. America can no longer afford that sort of global unilateralism. It is more likely to retreat to a hemispheric isolationism. This could be reflected in economic protectionism, particularly if European farmers wreck the Uruguay round of trade talks. That would bring a new world disorder with a vengeance.

This is not yet inevitable. But it is made more likely by the consequences of the Gulf war. In any case, the hopes of building a new world order through the United

Nations have received a serious setback. For the time being we shall be lucky if we can simply reduce disorder in those parts of the world which have been destabilised by the end of the cold war and the troubles of the Soviet Union, or which suffer from chronic instability, like Africa, the Middle East and southern Asia.

In Europe, the most urgent task is to help Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, at least, to establish stable democracies and social market economies. This will require assistance on a far greater scale than is at present being offered by any western power to any of the new democracies, except by Bonn to eastern Germany. It will also mean offering those East European countries the prospect of joining the European Community, first as associated members, then as full members, one hopes by the end of the decade. The Community will better be able to accept this responsibility if it also accepts as members those Efta countries which wish to join — as Austria, Sweden and Norway have already indicated they do. A Community which includes Germany's eastern and northern neighbours will provide a more comfortable framework for a united Germany than the present EC, as Bonn itself has indicated.

The enlargement of the Community need not be incompatible with its sensible deepening, whatever Jacques Delors may claim: at present he is in danger of becoming as irrelevant to the new world as his old antagonist, Margaret Thatcher. Even in its present form, the community has achieved its main purpose, of making war between its members inconceivable. Despite recent American efforts to revive a German militarism which we spent two world wars destroying, Germany is now the least nationalistic of all European states. But with a frontier now on Poland, it is bound, as in the past, to look east as much as west. We may find that Russia has as much reason in the 21st century as it had in the 19th to welcome Germany's return to Europe from the east and the south, into the U.S. from Latin America and Asia. This will cry out for international regulation and control, particularly since the world's population is doubling every 50 years. Above all, there is the need for global arms control and disarmament before the proliferation of new weapons of mass destruction passes the point of no return.

The prime responsibility for supporting policies through which the United Nations may approach these problems will lie with the richer and more powerful regional groups in the northern hemisphere, working with one another as well as with the peoples of the south. Only if the U.S. and its partners in Europe and the Far East can learn from the mistakes they made in tackling the Gulf crisis may we hope, after all, to see the United Nations create the framework for a new world order. — The Guardian.

## Ancient punishment for modern day evils

By Kathy Gannon

The Associated Press

BARA, Pakistan — The architect of a new Islamic order in Pakistan's rugged tribal region has resurrected an ancient method to punish modern-day evils.

Public flogging is the sentence being meted out more and more by orthodox Islamic clerics who are judge and jury in the heart of the Khyber, a virtual no-man's-land where the long arm of Pakistan's civil law doesn't reach and tribal rule by a centuries-old code prevails.

The author of the new order is a diminutive, soft-spoken religious scholar, Maulana Mohammad Mujahid, who wields much influence in the frontier area bordering Afghanistan.

"I'm very sad in here," said Khan.

The cell was shared with seven other people, all of them sentenced to flogging for crimes ranging from drug trafficking to kidnapping.

The council of Islamic clerics found Khan guilty of conspiring to kidnap. His brother, the reputed mastermind, escaped.

"Crimes were increasing day by day," Mujahid said in an interview.

Khan is held for his brother, Khan said. His jailor and secretary

have been flogged and hundreds of intra-tribal disputes settled.

Thousands of people crowded into an arid field outside Bara recently to watch the thrashings.

Bahadur Khan, an Afghan refugee convicted of rape, was whipped 100 times with a two-inch-wide (five-centimetre-wide) leather strap. Doctors periodically stopped the beating to check the victim, who was carried away at the end of his punishment.

Human rights activists condemn public flogging as inhuman and barbaric. Many Islamic scholars say the Muslim holy book, the Koran, intended flogging only as a form of humiliation and not severe punishment.

"Cruelty is not acceptable, but flogging is an Islamic punishment," Mujahid countered.

During the past year, tales of people being stoned to death for rape, sanctioned punishment in Islam, have filtered through to Peshawar, the nearest city. None of the reports could be independently verified.

Foreigners need special permission to pass through heavily fortified checkpoints that dot the tribal frontier.

The seat of government in Pakistan is hundreds of miles to the south in Islamabad, centuries ahead of the tribal area.

Despite the distance, the Isla-

amic clerics can exert tremendous pressure on the federal government, using their small but powerful religious parties to organise street demonstrations that have in past years destabilised civilian rule and forced the military to take over.

Fundamentalist Islamic clerics hounded former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during her 20 months in power. She was declared a heretic after saying that cutting off hands of convicted thieves was barbaric.

Ms. Bhutto tried to appease her fundamentalist critics by shrouding herself in a voluminous veil, thumbing Islamic prayer beads and visiting countless Islamic shrines.

During last year's election campaign, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif promised to bring all of Pakistan under Islamic law. Now he wants the many sects of Islam to reach a consensus on the sharpest bill of Islamic law, before passing it. Most analysts say consensus is impossible.

Some of his more orthodox cabinet ministers have accused him of dragging his feet. Sattar Niazi, the rural development and social affairs minister, resigned after criticising the prime minister for not implementing Islamic law.

## Shamir

(Continued from page 1)

# ARAB BANK PLC



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Shareholders,

Every year around this time, I meet with you to review the financial statements and the Board of Directors' annual report describing the activities of Arab Bank. Since the establishment of your institution, we pledged to maintain Arab Bank as a strong and successful organization to fulfill its mission in the Arab world. Following the objectives of the founder, the late Abdul Hameed Shoman, we will continue our efforts to preserve Arab Bank's leadership and professional performance so as to provide our customers with the best services, wherever they may be.

I have great pleasure in presenting to you the positive results of your Bank.

Despite the crisis which erupted in the Gulf, Arab Bank was able to increase its profits. Planning and hard work, together with the intensive activities of our worldwide network of branches and affiliates, have made these results possible and enabled us to realize our expectations. As in the past, we have adopted a steady policy of geographical expansion and diversification in the Arab world, Europe, the United States, and the Far East. Our objectives have always been to provide our customers with good advice as well as timely services, to make available for the Bank new investment opportunities, and to hedge against business and currency risks.

We at Arab Bank will not be discouraged from fulfilling our commitments entrusted to us by the founder of this institution. We have great confidence in the economic future of the Arab world. We will do our utmost to participate in developing the economies of the countries in which we operate, and we will also continue our efforts to expand into other countries.

In 1990, Arab Bank's relations with its correspondents remained strong. But some of the international banks unfamiliar with the Middle East believed they had to suspend their dealings with the region as a result of the contingent circumstances.

Arab Bank was not effected by these precautionary procedures. Its high liquidity was more than sufficient to meet its obligations. The customers' needs for correspondent banking services were met by Arab Bank branches, affiliates, and traditional correspondents. All customers' orders and requests for banking services were successfully met without delay.

You will observe from the financial statements that the total assets of Arab Bank declined slightly at the end of 1990 in comparison with the previous year's figures as a result of our decision to reduce our utilization of funds from the money market.

Arab Bank's liquidity remained higher than that of the local and international norms. Total cash and quasi cash to total assets reached 53.7% at the end of 1990. More-

over, we structured Arab Bank's assets to enable it to have easy access to liquidity.

I am pleased to inform you that 1990 net income increased to J.D. 62.3 million in comparison with J.O. 52.3 million in 1989, representing a growth rate of 19.1%. These results were achieved for the first time in the history of your institution.

The Board of Directors, whose recommendation is shown on page 18, has proposed to the General Assembly the distribution of J.O. 7.7 million in cash dividends, which represents 35% of paid-in capital and the allocation of the balance of the distributable income to the disclosed reserves. Accordingly, the disclosed shareholders' equity in the Bank at the end of 1990 reached J.O. 307 million in comparison with J.O. 252.5 million at the end of 1989. The ratio of shareholders' equity to total assets rose to 5.2% against 4.0% at the end of 1989.

In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly of the Bank on March 30, 1990, the necessary steps were taken with the various authorities to capitalize J.O. 22 million of the Bank's voluntary reserve and issue a share bonus to the shareholders registered on March 29, 1991 - the date of this General Assembly meeting. This is the third time that Arab Bank has distributed share dividends on the basis of one-to-one, which, in itself, confirms the profitable investment in Arab Bank shares. For our part, we will always safeguard the shareholders' capital

as well as the depositors' confidence. Our long history over the years testifies to that.

The term of office of the previous Board of Directors came to an end on March 31, 1990. All Board Members were re-elected with the exception of Mr. Mahmoud Beydoun, who excused himself from being nominated for the next term; Mr. Khalid Abu Hassan was elected in his place.

I would like to extend to Mr. Beydoun my sincere thanks for his twenty-four years of service on our Board of Directors. I would also like to welcome Mr. Khalid Abu Hassan to the Board and trust that Arab Bank will prevail over the current crisis.

On this occasion, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to the staff of Arab Bank, its customers, and shareholders. Without their faith, efforts, and support, the continued success of the Bank would not have been possible.

I would also like to extend my best and sincere wishes to each one of you. May God help us to serve you more efficiently.

*Abdulmajeed Shoman*

Abdulmajeed Shoman  
Chairman, Board of Directors

## ON THE RIGHT PATH

As it enters the 1990s, Arab banking is no longer what it once was. The recent political developments in the region, namely, the Gulf crisis, have heightened tensions and prodded Arab banking to the forefront.

Although this latest crisis will have severe repercussions on the banking industry in the region, we at Arab Bank, are firm believers that Arab banking will prevail over the current crisis.

We have witnessed the expectation of funds to other countries, and we have also seen the suspension of credit lines by international banks that are unfamiliar with the region.

Purposive role in this situation has become more visible. By joining with other Arab banks and attempting to meet their needs as much as possible, Arab banking can accomplish a rapid recovery. Moreover, achieving a more stable financial market in the region requires taking certain steps. In this regard, increasing inter-Arab trade will help to create and develop a real market place. Compliance with international market regulations should provide Arab banks with an entry to international markets. Competing with other financial institutions by creating and employing a variety of new financial products will enable Arab banking to regain lost ground.

On this occasion, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to the staff of Arab Bank, its customers, and shareholders. Without their faith, efforts, and support, the continued success of the Bank would not have been possible.

Our aims of enhancing the financial standing of the Bank, meeting our social commitments, and participating in the regional economic developments were vigorously accomplished.

The net income of US\$ 100 million was crossed for the first time by Arab Bank Group. Total equity has increased by US\$ 110 million to reach approximately US\$ 903 million. Equity to total assets ratio reached 6.3% and the BIS ratio was above 12%.

We are proud of our hard work, perseverance, and loyalty to our customers, which have helped us through the past year. Most importantly, Arab Bank was able to maintain local and international confidence. Our stable and conservative policies as well as our diversified presence have proven to be both relevant and wise. The geographical diversification of Arab Bank activities enabled the Bank to meet its obligations to its customers and correspondents.

We are deeply rooted in the Middle East. We will participate in the future endeavours to achieve financial stability and a rapid recovery. The aftermath of the Gulf crisis will bear witness to the fruits of our efforts in bringing a more stable and cooperative banking atmosphere to the region.

Khalid Shoman  
Deputy Chairman,  
Board of Directors

## Balance sheet as of 31st December 1990 and 1989

	31/12/1990 J.D ('000)	31/12/1989 J.D ('000)		31/12/1990 J.D ('000)	31/12/1989 J.D ('000)
<b>Assets</b>			<b>Liabilities</b>		
Cash in hand and at banks	2,590,612	3,313,507	Deposits and other accounts	5,469,582	5,916,917
Securities and investments	582,014	441,289	Acceptances	58,168	54,984
Loans and advances	2,533,928	2,344,626	Accrued interest payable	60,719	71,476
Customers' liability on acceptances	58,168	54,964	Dividends and remunerations	7,757	7,755
Premises and equipment	35,981	30,944	Total Liabilities	5,596,226	6,051,112
Accrued interest receivable	75,539	77,914	<b>Shareholders' Equity</b>		
Other assets	26,984	40,368	Capital	22,000	22,000
			Statutory reserve	22,000	22,000
			General reserve	197,000	154,500
			Voluntary reserve	66,000	54,000
			Total Shareholders' Equity	307,000	252,500
			Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	5,903,226	6,303,612
			Guarantees and letters of credit	1,460,339	1,256,245
			Total	7,363,565	7,559,857
			Khalid A. H. Shoman Deputy Chairman	Abdulmajeed A. H. Shoman Chairman	

## Profit and Loss Statement for the years 1990 and 1989

	31/12/1990 J.D ('000)	31/12/1989 J.D ('000)
<b>Revenue</b>		
Interest revenue	595,063	607,708
Less: Interest expense	478,636	503,958
Net interest revenue	116,427	103,750
Non-interest revenue		
Commissions	25,335	22,790
Foreign exchange trading	32,660	19,487
Other revenue	8,685	8,320
Total non-interest revenue	66,680	50,597
Total Revenue	183,107	154,347
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries and staff benefits	44,871	40,315
Depreciation of premises and equipment	3,856	3,620
Other expenses and provisions	57,977	41,838
Total Expenses	106,704	85,773
Net income before income taxes	76,403	68,574
Income taxes	14,146	16,319
Net Income	62,257	52,255
<b>Appropriations</b>		
To general reserve	42,500	34,500
To voluntary reserve	12,000	10,000
Proposed cash dividends	7,700	7,700
Directors' remuneration	57	55
Total Appropriations	62,257	52,255

## Statement of Sources and Applications of Funds for the years ended 31st December 1990 and 1989

	31/12/1990 J.D ('000)	31/12/1989 J.D ('000)
Funds provided		
Net income	62,257	52,255
Depreciation of premises and equipment	3,856	3,620
Total funds provided from operations	66,113	55,875
Increase in:		
Deposits and other accounts	-----	1,678,765
Decrease in:		
Cash in hand and at banks	722,895	-----
Other assets	15,759	-----
Total Funds Provided	804,767	1,734,640
Funds applied		
Dividends and remunerations paid	7,755	7,716
Increase in:		
Cash in hand and at banks	-----	877,059
Securities and investments	140,725	44,480
Loans and advances	189,302	757,651
Premises and equipment	8,893	13,705
Other assets	-----	34,029
Decrease in:		
Deposits and other accounts	458,092	-----
Total Funds Applied	804,767	1,734,640

## Auditors' Report

To the Shareholders of Arab Bank

We have examined the balance sheet of ARAB BANK (a Jordanian public shareholding limited company) as of December 31, 1990 and 1989, and the related statement of income and statement of sources and applications of funds for the years ended December 31, 1990 and 1989. We conducted our audit in accordance with international auditing guidelines and included such tests of the accounting records and of the system of internal control and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We have obtained the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

The Bank maintains proper accounting records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith. Furthermore, the financial data presented by the Board of Directors are in agreement with those records.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of

Arab Bank as of December 31, 1990 and 1989, and the results of its operations and its sources and applications of funds for the years then ended, in accordance with international accounting standards, and we recommend that the General Assembly approves these financial statements.

Seba & Co.  
Amman, Jordan, January 22, 1991

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' 61st Annual Report

Dear Shareholders,

In 1990, Arab Bank Group was successful in achieving a solid financial performance and continued to experience growth in net income, customer deposits, and total assets in spite of the difficult economic atmosphere prevailing worldwide. The Group's positive results were facilitated by the underlying strength of the institution through its financial and managerial resources.

### General economic situation

In 1990, the world economy entered a period of adjustment, following eight years of expansion. This period was influenced by three major political events, namely, the Gulf crisis, the continuation of the political changes in Eastern Europe, and the unification of Germany.

The economic slowdown in the United States and the United Kingdom fueled fears that a recession was looming. The pressure for lower interest rates was countered by the inflationary outlook, which intensified with the rise in oil prices. Under these conditions, money market rates in the United States and the United Kingdom became volatile with a downward trend. Short-term Japanese yen and Deutsche mark money market interest rates continued to be firm, mainly due to higher inflation.

The foreign exchange market was also unstable. The US dollar fluctuated within a wide range as a result of the expected recession as well as the policies of the Federal monetary authorities. The participation of the United Kingdom in the Exchange Rate Mechanism (E.R.M.) of the European Monetary System helped to strengthen and stabilize the pound sterling.

The Gulf crisis has given the oil-producing developing countries a good chance to improve their current accounts. Non-oil-producing developing countries were burdened with additional costs totalling up to US\$ 6 billion. As fears of world recession intensified, the slump in real prices for agricultural commodities and non-precious metals continued. A further consequence of this situation will be a rise in foreign debt. Heavily indebted countries will have severe difficulties in financing their current account deficits. Commercial banks will meet some

of those needs, but the remainder must be accommodated by scarce funds available from international development banks and foreign aid.

The development of efficient financial markets in Eastern Europe is far from being completed. The search for economic and political equilibrium will be painful, time consuming, and costly. Our wholly owned subsidiary, Arab Bank (Austria) A.G., is actively involved in research and studies on the impact of these developments.

A directive on a common operating license for credit institutions was issued to complement efforts towards the accomplishment of the EC's internal market. The registration of all financial institutions should be completed by 1992. On July 1st, 1990, constraints preventing the free flow of capital were completely abolished in eight member states.

Arab Bank Plc is fully aware of these changes. Resources and efforts are being deployed to benefit from the new opportunities. Advice and consultancy services on investment opportunities in this changing atmosphere are available to our customers upon request.

### Overview

Despite the adverse conditions prevailing in the Middle East, the Arab Bank Group performance was exceptionally good. Most strikingly, not only were the Group's profits the highest ever reached historically, but also the doubtful debt allowance was substantially strengthened. Moreover, almost all measures of financial strength have improved during the year under consideration.

The Jordanian dinar, the reporting currency of Arab Bank Plc, the principal entity of the Group, appreciated by 1.6% against the US dollar to equal US\$ 1.504 at the end of 1990 in comparison with US\$ 1.481 at the end of the previous year. The Swiss franc, the reporting currency of Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd., another main entity of the Group, strengthened to Str. 1.2775 from Str. 1.5420 against the US dollar. Given that the functional currency of both entities is the US dollar, it is not expected that the change in the exchange rate will materially impact the comparative analysis.

Except for the utilization of the sum-of-the-year's-digits depreciation method at some branches in place of the straight-line depreciation method for depreciating computer hardware, no other significant change in accounting policies or reporting format took place in 1990.

### Results of operations

The earning performance of Arab Bank Group continued to be favourable in spite of the Gulf crisis and the decline in the interest rates on the US dollar and the pound sterling.

### Net income

Net income after tax increased by US\$ 15 million to reach US\$ 113.1 million against US\$ 98.1 million in 1989, representing a growth rate of 15.3%. Higher net interest and revenue from foreign exchange trading and from commissions all contributed to this growth. Return on assets ratio improved to 0.86% from 0.76% last year. The outstanding growth rate of net income coupled with the stability of total assets explain the improved efficiency of the Bank.

Return on equity ratio slightly improved to 12.5% from the figure of 12.4% registered at the end of 1989.

### Net interest revenue

Net interest increased to US\$ 204.1 million from US\$ 174.8 million in the previous year. Total interest revenue was US\$ 1,013.8 million at the end of 1990 compared to US\$ 994.9 million at the end of 1989. The reduction of interbank deposits and the increase of investments in securities and loan portfolios explain the 16.8% increase in net interest revenue. Accordingly, net interest to total assets ratio also improved from 1.35% to 1.55%.

### Non-interest revenue

Total non-interest revenue increased by US\$ 21.2 million, representing a 16.7% growth rate over the past year, to reach US\$ 147.7 million in 1990 against US\$ 126.5 million in 1989.

Non-interest revenue represented 42.0% of total revenue, almost the same level as in the previous year.

### Operating expenses

Operating expenses reached US\$

197 million in comparison with US\$ 155.4 million in 1989. A comparative analysis of the components of operating expenses is presented below:

Expenses	1990	1989	Variance
Staff expenses	84.7	73.3	11.4
Depreciation	12.6	6.6	6.0
Provisions & other expenses	99.7	75.5	24.2
Total	197.0	155.4	41.6

The staff expenses represented 43.0% of total operating expenses, depreciation represented 6.4% and provisions and other expenses represented 50.6%. The 90.6% increase in depreciation resulted from a Str. 2.2 million decrease in the building book value of Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. Zurich, which was allowed by the local authorities, and from the acceleration of computer hardware depreciation. Provisions and other expenses increased to US\$ 99.7 million and contain a substantial amount allotted to doubtful debt allowance.

### Shareholders' equity

At the end of 1990, Arab Bank Group shareholders' equity came to 6.9% of total assets. The capital adequacy ratio, for the Group, measured according to the Basle Committee Rules, was around 12%. Moreover, total shareholders' equity corresponded to more than 20% of the loan portfolio.

The increase of US\$ 110.4 million in the shareholders' equity in 1990 enhanced the solid and sound financial position of the Group. Total shareholders' equity reached US\$ 902.9 million compared to US\$ 792.5 million at the end of 1989. US\$ 98.4 million of the growth was capitalized and retained from the distributable income. The balance of US\$ 12 million resulted from the decline of the negative balance of translation adjustments due to the improvement in exchange rates of both the Jordanian dinar and the Swiss franc against the US dollar.

### Deposits

The stable customers' deposits composed most of the Group's funds. Some movement of funds from entities operating in the Middle East to other areas, mainly Europe, was observed. The growth rate of total deposits was limited to 0.4% over the previous year. The total balance

of deposits and other accounts increased by US\$ 49.6 million to reach US\$ 12,034.5 million at the end of 1990.

### Assets

Total assets reached US\$ 13,131.5 million at the end of 1990, a slight increase over the figure of US\$ 12,978.2 million recorded at the end of 1989. This represents a growth rate of 1.2%.

### Loan portfolio

The Group's loan portfolio net of the doubtful debt allowance was US\$ 4,201.3 million, representing an increase of 9.6% over the level of US\$ 3,832.8 million in 1989. The Group was able to manage its holdings in loans and advances positively, reflecting continued expansion in traditional and new products marketing.

### Securities and investments

The Group increased its security portfolio to US\$ 983.2 million from US\$ 735.3 million, representing an increase of US\$ 247.9 million or 33.7%. The securities portfolio continued to be dominated by prime government bonds and securities.

### Liquidity

The prudent policy of maintaining high liquidity helped the Group to reduce its dependence on inter-bank funds and to meet its financial obligations during the most trying times in 1990. The liquidity ratio (cash and quasi cash to total assets) was 63.1%, slightly lower than in 1989 when it had been 65.7%. Cash in hand and at banks declined to US\$ 7,309.1 million from US\$ 7,787.2 million. This slight decrease of liquid funds was compensated by an increase of US\$ 247.9 in marketable securities.

### Geographical distribution

The geographical distribution of the main financial items of Arab Bank Group at the end of 1990 and 1989 is presented below.

It may be observed that the Group's entities in Europe consolidated their lead in terms of assets 58.0%, loans 41.4%, deposits 58.5% and revenue 54.4%.

Jordan maintained around 11% weight in almost all items except revenue, which declined to 14.6% from 16.1%.

ARAB BANK PLC General Management Amman, Jordan, P.O. Box 950544, 950545 Telephone 650115, 650131 Telex 23061 Facsimile 606793, 606630

Branch	Country (No. of branches)	P.O. Box	Telephone	Telex	Faximile	Representative offices	Location	P.O. Box	Telephone	Telex	Faximile
Main branches in the Arab countries	Shmeisani, Amman King Faisal St., Amman Manama Riad Solh St., Beirut Tripoli Saida Sana'a Yemen (3) Doha Qatar (2) Abu Dhabi Al Maktoum, Dubai	Jordan (55) 6B 395 Lebanon (11) 379 199 475 172 875 11364	950546 63B161 255988 868131 430111 724501 240922 2239 4202 22257 228845	650131 21230 8232 22282 41920 23661 283187 283187 410774 336433 46126	23094 637082 210443 868131 602383 72925 283187 283187 410774 336433 285974	670564	Beijing (Peking) Tokyo	China Japan	5002255 (ext. 3510) 35789388	22739 32442	5003275 35789359
Main offshore banking units	Manama Cairo Singapore	Bahrain (1) 2008 Singapore (1)	813 746218 5330055	258398 21401 22956	8647 746165 5322150	Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. Arab Australia Ltd. Finance Accountancy Mohassabe S.A. Arab Bank (Austria) AG Arab Tunisian Bank Oman Arab Bank Arab Bank Maroc Arab National Bank Nigeria-Arab Bank Ltd. U.S.A.E. Arab German Bank Arabia Insurance Co.	Zurich Geneva Sydney Geneva Vienna Tunis Ruwi Casablanca Riyadh Lagos Luxembourg Frankfurt Beirut	5281 1098 1506 100 520 5010 13810 58921 12807 115 102239 11-2127	2657111 7151211 2324133 7328003 5134240 350147 706285 223152 4029000 681955 4850011 27150 363610	812279 412370 120620 412489 135313 15293 3285 22942 402660 21973 2874 414249 21016	2657330 7322460 2215428 7387229 51342409 349278 797738 200233 4027747
Main branches in Europe, U.S.A., and Asia	Nicosia Paris Athens Rome Seoul London New York	Cyprus (5) France (2) Greece (1) Italy (1) S. Korea (1) U.K. (3) U.S.A. (2)	5700 319 30357 745 1331 138 5377	457111 43593434 3255401 6840479 7570024 3158500 7159700	5717 642443 219922 824181 34180 887110 238770	457B90 42890978 3255519 8795601 7570124 6007620 5934832	Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Hbron and Gaza Branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are temporarily closed and not allowed to function under the Israeli occupation.				



# ARAB BANK GROUP

Balance Sheet as of 31st December 1990 and 1989

Assets	31/12/1990 US\$ ('000)	31/12/1989 US\$ ('000)
Cash in hand and at banks	7,309,091	7,787,204
Securities and investments	983,212	735,285
Loans and advances	4,201,277	3,832,765
Customers' liability on acceptances	87,485	81,402
Investments in associated companies	269,840	242,682
Premises and equipment	77,373	67,585
Accrued interest receivable	114,484	115,391
Other assets	88,780	116,378
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>13,131,522</b>	<b>12,978,692</b>
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	2,353,784	2,039,972
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,485,306</b>	<b>15,018,664</b>

Liabilities	31/12/1990 US\$ ('000)	31/12/1989 US\$ ('000)
Deposits and other accounts	12,034,452	11,984,890
Acceptances	97,485	81,402
Accrued interest payable	91,951	105,856
Proposed dividends	14,767	14,053
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>12,228,655</b>	<b>12,186,201</b>
<b>Shareholders' Equity</b>		
Capital	56,939	86,939
Statutory reserve	79,216	77,255
General reserve	547,604	478,205
Voluntary reserve	159,427	141,379
Reserves with associated companies	174,173	165,572
Retained earnings	4,773	3,429
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,051,132</b>	<b>952,779</b>
Translation adjustments	(148,265)	(160,288)
<b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>902,867</b>	<b>792,491</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>13,131,522</b>	<b>12,978,692</b>
Liability on guarantees and letters of credit	2,353,784	2,039,972
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,485,306</b>	<b>15,018,664</b>

Statement of Sources and Applications of Funds  
For the years ended 31st December 1990 and 1989

	31/12/1990 US\$ ('000)	31/12/1989 US\$ ('000)
<b>Funds provided</b>		
Net income	113,120	98,110
Depreciation of premises and equipment	12,643	6,633
<b>Total funds provided from operations</b>	<b>125,763</b>	<b>104,743</b>
Funds from hidden reserves, Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.	—	19,455
<b>Increase in:</b>		
Deposits and other accounts	35,657	—
<b>Decrease in:</b>		
Cash and due from banks	478,113	329,150
Investments and securities	—	180,895
Other assets	28,525	26,789
Translation adjustments	12,023	—
<b>Total funds provided from changes in assets and liabilities</b>	<b>554,318</b>	<b>536,834</b>
<b>Total Funds Provided</b>	<b>680,081</b>	<b>661,032</b>
<b>Funds applied</b>		
Dividends and remunerations paid	14,053	20,795
Translation adjustments	—	68,365
<b>Decrease in:</b>		
Capital	—	3,184
Deposits and other accounts	—	435,034
<b>Increase in:</b>		
Investments and securities	247,927	—
Loans and advances	368,512	93,696
Investments in associated companies	27,158	29,489
Premises and equipment	22,431	10,469
<b>Total Funds Applied</b>	<b>680,081</b>	<b>661,032</b>

## Auditors' Report

To the Shareholders of Arab Bank.

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of ARAB BANK GROUP, as of December 31, 1990 and 1989, and the related consolidated statement of income and consolidated statement of sources and applications of funds for the years then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with international auditing guidelines and, accord-

ingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. Included in the financial statements are amounts relating to a sister company and certain subsidiaries audited by other auditors whose reports we have reviewed.

In our opinion, based upon our examination and the reports of other auditors, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the fi-

nancial position of Arab Bank Group as of December 31, 1990 and 1989, and the results of its operations and its sources and applications of funds for the years then ended, in accordance with international accounting standards.

Saba & Co.  
Amman, Jordan, January 22, 1991

## Profit and Loss Statement for the years 1990 and 1989

	31/12/1990 US\$ ('000)	31/12/1989 US\$ ('000)
<b>Revenue</b>		
Interest revenue	1,013,803	994,908
Less: Interest expense	809,656	820,137
Net interest revenue	204,147	174,771
Non-interest revenue		
Commissions	55,479	47,210
Foreign exchange trading	52,722	32,750
Other revenue	39,454	46,535
Total non-interest revenue	147,655	126,495
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>351,802</b>	<b>301,266</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries and staff benefits	84,684	73,267
Depreciation of premises and equipment	12,643	6,633
Other expenses and provisions	99,674	75,478
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>197,001</b>	<b>155,378</b>
Net income before income taxes	154,801	45,888
Income taxes	41,681	47,778
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>113,120</b>	<b>98,110</b>
<b>Appropriations</b>		
Net income	113,120	98,110
Retained earnings brought forward	3,429	558
From hidden taxed reserves: Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.	—	19,455
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,549</b>	<b>118,123</b>
To statutory reserve	961	1,158
To general reserve	69,399	75,090
To voluntary reserve	18,048	14,810
To reserves with associated companies	8,601	9,583
Proposed cash dividends	14,681	13,972
Directors' remunerations	86	81
<b>Retained Earnings Carried Forward</b>	<b>4,773</b>	<b>3,429</b>



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# Sports

## Liverpool looks to Barnes for magic touch against QPR

LONDON (R) — Liverpool are hoping that John Barnes, enjoying a lucrative new contract, will reward the English Soccer League leaders with another touch of magic Saturday.

After scoring twice in their 7-1 thrashing of Derby last weekend, the England striker will be eager for some more goals in the first division match against lowly Queen's Park Rangers at Anfield.

QPR have not lost in seven games and manager Don Howe has tightened the defence considerably since the clubs met in London last December, with Barnes scoring in the 1-1 draw.

Barnes, who did not impress while playing for England against Ireland Wednesday, will at least be more relaxed after signing on for another year with the defending champions.

**France go for goals against Albania**

PARIS (R) — Michel Platini's France will be looking for a hatful of goals against a weakened and dispirited Albania when the two nations meet in a European Championship Group one soccer qualifier Saturday.

The Albanians, whose request for the match to be postponed because of political chaos in their country was turned down, arrived in Paris Friday a day late and lacking three players lost in Switzerland where a plane connection was missed.

Their trainer, Bekush Birce, whose squad was already weakened by the refusal of league leaders Flamurtari to release its players as well as by the defections of other internationals, was somewhat depressed on his arrival.

"We are tired by our disturbed journey," he said. "I don't know how we can get a result with a team which is not very good."

## Soviets sweep U.S.-USSR amateur boxing tournament

SPOKANE, Washington (AP) — Soviet boxers swept fights in the six top weight divisions to defeat the United States' top amateurs 7-5 in the USA-USSR amateur boxing dual at the Spokane Coliseum.

The march featured bouts in 12 Olympic-weight categories. The American Boxing Federation, which sanctions Olympics-style boxing, sent nine national champions to the meet. The Soviet team featured two world champions and three Goodwill Games gold medalists.

In the super heavyweight category, Soviet champion Eugeny Belousov defeated U.S. champion Larry Donald 4-1.

Eugeny Sudakov, the Soviet Union's top boxer in the heavyweight division, decisioned Melvin Foster 5-0. Foster was a bronze medalist in the U.S. Championships.

At the 178-pound (81-kilogram) level, Soviet champion Rostislav Zauhichy topped the United States' Jeremy Williams 4-1. Soviet silver medalist Akaki Kakaunidze beat U.S. champion Chris Byrd 5-0 at 165 pounds (75 kilograms).

World champion Israel Akop-kianian edged American champion Raul Marquez 3-2 at 156 pounds (71 kilograms), while Vladimir Ereschenko, a four-time Soviet champion, defeated Pepe Reilly 5-0 at 147 pounds (67 kilograms).

U.S. champion Vernon Forest broke the Soviet's dominance at

by manager Arthur Cox. The defeat was Derby's worst at home since 1959.

Even though they are playing away, the north Londoners still face a somewhat easier task than Liverpool at home.

Whatever the outcome, Liverpool face a long trip to Southampton on Easter Monday, knowing that Arsenal have two more days rest before they meet Aston Villa next Wednesday.

Third-placed Crystal Palace are also away Saturday, at last-but-one Sunderland, who lost 3-1 to Villa last week.

England striker Ian Wright, a late substitute in the 1-1 draw against Ireland, will be after his 20th goal of the season to keep the south Londoners' slim title hopes alive.

With eight games remaining, they are five points behind Liver-

pool and four behind Arsenal, so draws for the top two and a win for Palace would throw the title wide open again.

Southampton are likely to give defender Jon Gittens his debut against Manchester City following his transfer from second division Swindon while Sheffield United, after an appalling early season, look for a ninth consecutive game without defeat.

United are at home to relegation-threatened Linton, who beat the hosts 3-1 in the F.A. Cup third round in January.

Wimbledon, who entertain Nottingham Forest, will be looking to extend their unbeaten run.

And European Cup Winners' Cup semifinalists Manchester United have a score to settle at Norwich, the club who last month wrecked their dream of retaining the F.A. Cup.

## Milan to appeal against one-year UEFA ban

MILAN, (R) — AC Milan have said they would appeal against a one-year ban from European club soccer competitions following an incident in their European Cup quarter-final second leg at Marseille last week.

"AC Milan, informed of the decision by UEFA's Control and Discipline Committee over the match with Olympique Marseille, informs that it will appeal against the sanction imposed on it," the club said in a statement.

The European Football Union (UEFA) banned Milan for one year, suspended club delegate Adriano Galliani until July 31, 1993, and awarded the match to Marseille by forfeit, 3-0.

Milan, European Cup winners for the last two seasons, walked off the pitch when the floodlights failed and refused to return when the referee tried to restart the second leg tie.

The statement did not specify whether Milan would appeal against all three parts of the UEFA ruling.

AC Milan have until March 31 to present their appeal. Milan, held 1-1 at home in the first leg, were 1-0 down in the

second leg when floodlighting failed a minute from time.

Galliani said Tuesday he would resign if the club were banned.

"I'm ready to resign. I made a mistake through too much love (for the team)," he said.

Veteran right back Mauro Tassotti said: "It's an excessive sentence, undeserved, even if we made a mistake ... perhaps if they had let us go back to the changing rooms we would have been able to calm down and maybe played on."

Club President Silvio Berlusconi had been confident Milan, who had bad no previous trouble with UEFA during their two-year reign as European champions, would get off lightly.

UEFA Wednesday banned Dynamite Dresden from all European club competitions for two seasons after rioting during the German team's European Cup tie against Red Star Belgrade.

UEFA awarded the March 20 quarter-final match, which was abandoned in the second half, 3-0 to the Yugoslavs but Red Star were also fined 15,000 Swiss francs (\$10,300).

## Milan coach may leave at end of soccer season

MILAN (R) — Coach Arrigo Sacchi said he may leave AC Milan at the end of the season and the only job he would accept in the future would be with a national team.

"I told (Club President Silvio) Berlusconi that I might quit coaching Milan," Sacchi said Thursday.

"But I immediately assured him that I would not go to coach any other club side," Sacchi told reporters during an impromptu news conference after a training session at the club's Milanello retreat outside Milan.

"After four years at Milan, I think I have concluded this experience of mine," he said.

Sacchi guided Milan to the Italian first division championship in 1988 and the European Cup and world cup titles in 1989 and 1990.

"Milan's results do not come from this issue. I've had incredible satisfaction with this team," Sacchi said.

AC Milan were knocked out of the European Cup last week and a recent string of poor league results has left them five points adrift of leaders Sampdoria.

On Wednesday, they were banned from European competition for a year after refusing to play on when floodlights failed moments before the end of their European Cup defeat in Marseille.

Sacchi, whose contract runs until mid-1992, said his decision was for personal reasons.

He said he would not leave because of any problems with players, including Milan's Dutch trio Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard.

"Van Basten has openly criticized Sacchi's tactics in the past few months.

Sacchi said he had three options: To stay at Milan, give up soccer or take on a national team.

## Sainz leads Safari Rally

NAIROBI (AP) — Carlos Sainz of Spain bolted onto the lead Friday in the 39th Safari Rally as Japanese Toyota GT4s and Italy's Lancia Integrale fought for dominance.

Sweden's Bjorn Waldegaard, the defending champion, was close behind Sainz in another GT4 in the six-day race that began Wednesday in Nairobi.

Finland's Jutta Kankkunen driving a Lancia Integrale held the third position, followed by Argentina's Jorge Ricalde in the last of the original three Lancias still running.

The third Lancia, driven by

Italy's Massimo Biasion, dropped out of the 4,500-kilometer (2,790-mile) race after a collision with a truck in the second leg Thursday.

Biasion's accident was the second in the rally. On Wednesday, cars driven by Briton David Llewellyn and Kenyan Alwi Hassan abandoned the race after they collided.

Sainz, the current world champion, won the first leg Wednesday to the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa where the vehicles stayed overnight. He repeated the feat on the second leg to Nairobi on Thursday and was first off the ramp Friday morning.

## Seles advances easily to hardcourt quarterfinals

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) — Monica Seles of Yugoslavia needed only 58 minutes to dispose of Germany's Claudia Porwilk 6-1, 6-4 to advance to the quarter-finals of the \$225,000 Women's Hardcourt Championships.

Seles, the top seed in the 32-draw tournament and the world number one woman player, said she was unhappy with her play after having to thwart late surge by the 80th-ranked Porwilk.

"I was not going for my shots," Seles said. "I let her take control of the match. She's a good player, and I was lucky to break back. I do need to take more control of the points."

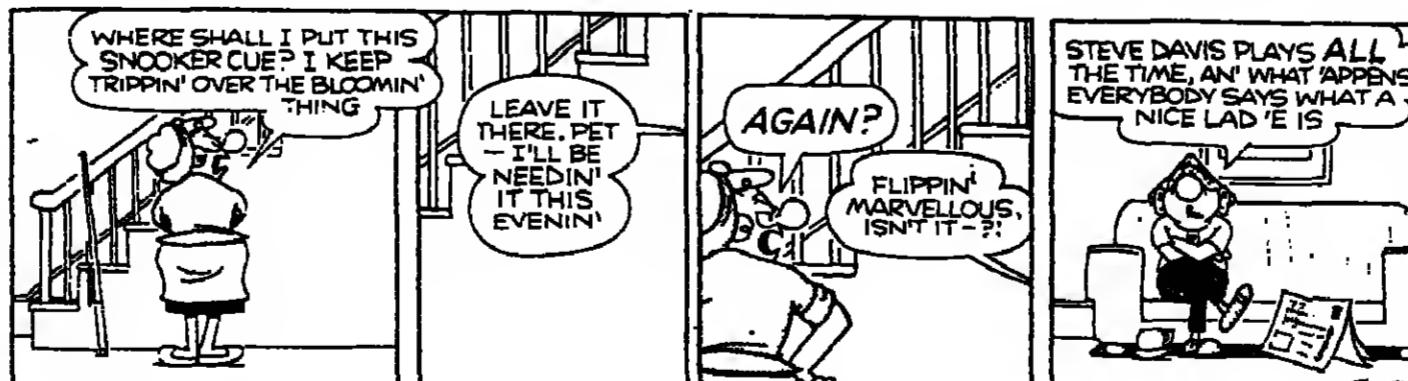
After breezing through the first set 6-1, Seles was broken in the second at 1-1, winning only one point. Porwilk held service then broke Seles again to go up 3-2.

Barring upsets, Seles and Graf will meet in Sunday's final. The world's top two players have not met this year, but Porwilk, who has played each of them several times in the last year, gave Graf the edge.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
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### A WINNING LOSER

Both vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♦ K 4 3 2  
5  
Q 9 5 4 2  
♦ K 5  
WEST  
♦ Void  
+ A 10 8 5  
1 9 7 3  
J 10 6  
Void  
+ A Q 9 7 3 2  
♦ 10 6 4 2  
SOUTH  
♦ A Q 9 7 6  
A 8  
A K 8 7 3  
♦ 8  
The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass  
6 ♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♦  
Some hands are deceptive by their very simplicity. The winning line on this hand involves no complicated play, yet we would wager that most players would overlook it.  
The auction might not be described as a thing of beauty. However, it did get North-South to an excellent spade slam. Even though six diamonds is the superior contract, it is by no means easy to reach

the rest of the hand would be high.

As so often happens, declarer had made a fatal error on an early trick. Instead of discarding a heart on the jack of clubs, declarer should have shifted a diamond—that "useless" heart had a key role to play.

Later, once West had shown out on the first trump lead, declarer would have had an easy and perfectly safe way to get to the board. South could have cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart, and there would still have been a trump for third-round lead of the suit. Once trumps were drawn, the rest of the hand would be high.

STEVE DAVIS PLAYS ALL THE TIME, AND WHAT HAPPENS? EVERYBODY SAYS WHAT A NICE LAD'E IS!

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JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1991

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 30, 1991

Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19)

Make plans with good friends early

but later do it early for later you find that all kinds of annoyances can occur to annoy and distract you today.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21)

This is the moment for you to show that you are the one who does your assignments quietly and without raising anger with anyone else.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20)

Whatever you have in mind that is financial in its nature requires careful and astute handling now so avoid extravagance and frivolity.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19)

Take some time out to get yourself in the pink of condition this day in both health and appearance and avoid some social groups where trouble could ensue.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20)

A day to make sure you get rid of all the personal and initiate little problems facing you and to sidestep the limitations that cause trouble.

**TODAY'S CHILD:** If your child was born today she or he is apt to be quite shy and will need to be brought out tenderly and carefully to avoid damage that may result from exposure to the wrong persons. In later years this child will have an unusual ability to aid others in finding their right niche in this world.

**THE STARS IMPEL, THEY DO NOT COMPETE, WHAT YOU MAKE OF LIFE IS LARGELY UP TO YOU.**

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



If these flowers don't calm down my wife, we can use them for my funeral.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Barro

Pypin

Retamb

Vorref

COULD THIS BE THE BEST WINE AFTER A LONG VOYAGE?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: TACKY PIECE DAMASK COUGAR  
Answer: That idiot thought he should go to the hospital when this finally happened—AN IDEA "STRUCK" HIM

## THE Daily Crossword

by Richard Thomas

## Gulf war gives airlines their toughest time in forty years

GENEVA (R) — Airlines lost more than \$2 billion in the first two months of 1991 as the Gulf war pushed up the cost of fuel, insurance and airport security and scared away passengers, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has said.

"This has been the industry's most difficult period in more than 40 years, and the effects will be felt for a long time," Guenter Eser, director-general of IATA said in a statement.

Losses in February alone were estimated at well over \$1 billion, said IATA, which represents 12

airlines around the world.

"The Gulf crisis was the driving force, but other economic factors were at work as well, including the slowdown in the United States economy," an IATA official said.

February saw an average 17 per cent fall-off in traffic worldwide, compared with the same month last year, IATA said.

Middle East airline traffic was down 49 per cent. European activity off 16 per cent and North American traffic down 17 per cent.

January traffic generally was 12

per cent lower than it had been a year earlier.

IATA said 21,400 flights around the world were cancelled last month, six per cent of the total. The cancellations included 6,600 by Middle Eastern carriers, 12,000 by European airlines, 2,000 by North American companies.

Cancellations in January totalled 15,400.

Middle Eastern operators lost \$100 million in February. Europeans lost \$640 million, while losses in North America and the rest of the world each amounted to \$100 million, IATA said.

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## World Bank gives IDA \$275 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank announced that it will put \$275 million from its surplus into its fund for the poorest countries, called the International Development Association (IDA), to help them meet costs due to the Gulf war.

It will give another \$33 million to the new global environment trust fund, set up last year by industrialised countries.

The rest of the surplus earned in the year that ended June 30, amounting to \$750 million, went into the bank's reserves. The World Bank group's largest element, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), is owned by 155 governments, with the United States holding the largest block of shares. It earns most of its profit by borrowing on world markets.

Market shrank to 27.9 per cent from 29.2 per cent, while in Spain it fell to 16.6 per cent from 19 per cent.

Renault's productivity, which grew eight per cent in 1989, fell by about five per cent last year, he said.

Schweitzer said that despite the drop in the car market's operating margin, its performance remained average among European manufacturers — not as strong as Peugeot S.A. or General Motors Europe, but stronger than Ford's European unit at Volkswagen A.G.

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This was made worse by a 1.3 per cent decline in the overall European market, he said.

Renault lost market share in both France and Spain, its main strongholds, the executive said. Renault's share of the French

dollar and the yen" as reserve currency.

Reserve currencies like the yen and the dollar, the money of two economically strong countries, are held by governments and other financial institutions for international transactions and other uses.

"The deutschmark would eventually come under excessive strain," Bangemann said in a speech to the German Forum in

said.

The EC needs its own European currency that carries weight internationally," Bangemann said.

Saudi Arabia recorded the big-

gest jump in export rankings to 21st place from 25th as earnings rose by nearly 40 per cent to \$39 billion, due to sharply higher oil exports and prices for crude oil.

All Western Europe apart from Sweden boosted export values well above the average world increase of 13 per cent, with currency appreciation against the dollar playing an important role.

Austria had the biggest growth among the top 25 exporters with an increase of 28 per cent in value over 1989, helped by surging exports to Germany, Brazil and the Soviet Union.

Unification added \$22.5 billion to German exports in 1990, when all exports of the former East Germany were counted in the overall total.

The United States recorded a greater increase in export volume at 8.5 per cent against only 1.5 per cent for Germany.

Japan kept third place with exports up 4.5 per cent to \$286 billion.

Depreciation of the dollar against the French franc helped lift France into a tie for third place with Japan amongst leading importers, both registering totals of \$224 billion, the GATT report said.

China's imports fell in value by 8.5 per cent while exports grew 18 per cent, resulting in a shift in its trade balance to an \$8 billion surplus in 1990 from a \$6.5 billion deficit in 1989.

The report was a preliminary estimate of world commerce in 1990 compiled by the secretariat of the 101-nation GATT from data on hand in early March.

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Austria had the biggest growth among the top 25 exporters with an increase of 28 per cent in value over 1989, helped by surging exports to Germany, Brazil and the Soviet Union.

Unification added \$22.5 billion to German exports in 1990, when all exports of the former East Germany were counted in the overall total.

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## 7 killed in Natal South African judge to probe Daveyton clash

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Seven people were killed in a tense township in Natal province, police said Friday, and the justice minister ordered a judicial inquiry into the Daveyton clash that killed 13.

Police said two hacked and stabbed bodies were found in the Ndaleni township in Natal Thursday, and five men were fatally shot in a township dwelling.

The killings came on the eve of the Easter holiday, when blacks who have left their homelands and townships to work in other parts of the country return to visit their families.

Police described Ndaleni as tense.

Natal has been torn by years of fighting between supporters of the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party, the two largest black opposition groups, in which more than 5,000 people have died.

Conflict in Ndaleni in January caused hundreds of residents to flee the area. The latest trouble began when more than 300 ANC supporters returned in buses Wednesday, the South African Press Association reported.

An ANC official said the con-

tinent received a hostile reception, claiming shots were fired at the buses as they approached Ndaleni.

Police spokesman Lt. Henry Budhran said the two people found dead Thursday were believed to be Inkatha supporters. No details were available on the identities of the five bodies discovered Friday.

Chronic violence, mostly black faction fighting, spread to the Johannesburg area from Natal last August, killing more than 1,000 people. Despite pleas for peace by black leaders, the conflict has continued.

Recent fighting between Inkatha and ANC supporters in the Alexandra and Tembisa townships killed scores of people. Last Sunday, police lashed with armed ANC supporters in Daveyton, east of Johannesburg, near a township stadium where Inkatha was holding a rally.

A white policeman was hacked and stabbed to death, and police gunfire killed 12 blacks. Dozens of people were injured.

Police said they opened fire in self-defence when the ANC supporters attacked them. ANC offi-

cials said police told the crowd of about 200 people to disperse then began shooting without provocation.

Justice Minister Kobie Coetse announced a judge would be appointed to investigate the incident, the worst clash in months involving security forces.

Sixty inquests into two shooting incidents involving security forces in the Soweto township last year concluded police and soldiers opened fire without permission.

Coetse said he wanted the Daveyton inquest to begin quickly because previous investigations were held too long after the incidents, resulting in a loss of evidence.

The ANC has accused security forces of instigating township violence to destabilise opposition groups. The government denies the charge.

The ANC-Inkatha clash has tribal and political roots. Most Inkatha supporters are Zulus, while Shosha and other blacks make up the bulk of ANC supporters.

Both groups oppose apartheid but differ on how to establish a non-racial South Africa.

## Gunman kills 3 Catholics in N. Ireland

CRAIGAVON, Northern Ireland (AP) — The primate of the Anglican Church of Ireland, said in a BBC Radio interview: "I am simply trying to cry out from the midst of the Protestant community and say that if this was done in our name we utterly reject it, and we say to our Roman Catholic neighbours it is not done by our mandate."

Police said two masked gunmen in a blue van pulled up opposite a mobile grocery shop at Drumbeag South, a predominantly Catholic public housing project 50 kilometres southwest of Belfast, late Thursday.

One gunman dragged a 14-

year-old girl outside her hair and forced her to kneel on the ground.

He then shot to death both women inside the shop and a man who was about to enter, police said.

News reports speculated the slayings may have come in retaliation for sectarian slayings of Protestants in recent months.

The BBC said police had warned the shop's owner about Protestant paramilitary threats of violence but had thought gunmen would not kill a female employee.

## Kohl vilified by people who once cheered him

BONN (AP) — Helmut Kohl once promised that no German would suffer after unification. He was wrong, and Kohl himself is one of the victims.

The chancellor's popularity six months ago when Germany was unified has been eroded by the arduous task of trying to make unification work.

In the euphoria of unity, Kohl's party in December won the first election of a unified Germany. But in former west Germany, Kohl has come under fire for breaking an election pledge that his government would not increase taxes to finance unity. Now, the government has plans to raise sales taxes, and a 7.5 per cent income tax increase is due July 1.

The chancellor's tumble is most visible, and audible, in former east Germany. Viewed by eastern Germans as a saviour before unity on Oct. 3, Kohl is now considered a fraud by many.

On the same east German streets and squares where shouts of "Helmut, Helmut," echoed through the air before unification, impoverished protesters are now yelling "go away, Kohl."

Leipzig's Augustus Square, where Kohl last year vowed "no one will be any worse off after German unity," is referred to by Leipzigers as "the square of broken promises" because of eastern Germany's deepening economic crisis.

Kohl, who once reveled in addressing enthusiastic east Germans, has been avoiding the region, and is being castigated for his absence.

As more than 80,000 people



Helmut Kohl

rallied Leipzig Monday, the chancellor was in Austria for his annual slimming-down vacation.

The Leipzig Tagesspiegel newspaper Tuesday observed that while the portly Kohl was trying to shed pounds at a mountain resort, jobless east Germans were worrying how to pay for their groceries.

"Tens of thousands took to the streets, and the man they blame is dying in Austria," the newspaper said.

Angry because Kohl has not ventured into the region for a personal look at their problems, protesters have threatened to march on Bonn.

Kohl has responded by saying he understands eastern Germans' rage and has promised them an economic turnaround within five years. At the same time he has told them to work harder.

PILILIA, Philippines (AP) — Chanting wafts through the night in this town and thousands like it as Filipino Christians mark Easter week with rituals blending religion, pageantry and socialising.

The chants are from the Pabasa, or nightlong ritual singing of the Passion of Christ. The Passion recalls the Biblical story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

It is one of several folk rituals observed in the week leading up to Easter in the Philippines. Asia's only predominantly Christian country. About 85 per cent of the 60 million Filipinos are Roman Catholic.

Other traditional rituals include religious processions. Passion plays, self-flagellation and even re-enactments of Jesus' crucifixion, in which devotees are nailed to wooden crosses.

Sponsors provide food to those who stop by to take part in the ritual. That gives the ceremony a festive atmosphere, an opportunity for neighbours to socialise while fulfilling burden. Food and other expenses for the week can

## EC aid programme for Soviet Union stalled

BRUSSELS (R) — An urgent food aid programme for the Soviet Union announced by the European Community before Christmas appears still to be stalled while the EC checks the information from Moscow about who will get the food.

The programme worth nearly \$1 billion in food aid and credits was announced in December at the EC's Rome summit, but had still not got under way by Easter Friday.

"It is my impression it could be some time before any of it (the food aid) moves," said an official of the Catholic charity Caritas, one of the private agencies through which the aid would probably be channelled.

A Brussels-based Western diplomat said the EC's Executive Commission was struggling to get clear indications from Moscow on the identities of end users for 80,000 tonnes of food planned as a first portion of what is supposed to be emergency aid.

"They get lists of warehouses and factories when what they want are names of old people's homes, orphanages and so on. They don't want aid to disappear or end up with the army," he said.

A commission official acknowledged that the EC executive still had to check that aid requested would reach the right hands.

The official said Moscow had sent new lists of aid destinations at the end of last week in response to commission requests for greater precision, but the information was all in Russian and was taking time to analyse.

A spokeswoman at the Soviet embassy said the commission had had all the information it needed and that aid deliveries should start by the end of April.

The food aid, especially meat, baby food and milk powder, was planned to help the Soviet Union through the winter, but the embassy spokeswoman said: "The need is still as great as before. Our spring is like January here."

Asked whether the Soviet Union really needed food aid on the scale offered by the EC, she said this was "difficult to say" because the Soviet food distribution system had broken down.

EC leaders at the Rome summit, eager to shore up President Mikhail Gorbachev's tottering reform programme, pledged up to 250 million ECUs (\$300 million) in guarantees for commercial bank loans for Moscow to buy EC food.

Work on the Soviet credit guarantee programme — but not officially the direct food aid scheme — was held up for weeks in protest at the deaths of 22 people in January.

The Caritas official said the main problem is distributing aid in the Soviet Union was the absence of any tradition of benevolent organisations.

Such groups existed in certain areas such as Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, but in Moscow and other cities many supposedly charitable associations were inexperienced or were linked to the army, he said.

The Caritas official said that to avoid aid going astray it might be necessary to allocate it in small portions to individual needy families identified by Orthodox priests or other Christian activists.

A Soviet delegation led by Yuri Chumakov, deputy minister for foreign economic relations, made progress in talks about the food credits with commission officials in Brussels this week, the Soviet spokeswoman said.

Generation by generation, Chil-

dren who move away often send home money during Easter week to help defray expenses of sponsorship.

"My grandmother did it, and her grandmother before her," one sponsor, Emma Patena, said.

Meanwhile in the city of Cutud, a 24-year-old fish vendor stared at the sky and wept Friday as he and other devotees were nailed to wooden crosses in a ritual marking the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Six men were crucified in the middle of a rice field while thousands of devotees and tourists watched.

"This is my first time to be crucified," fish seller Chito Sangalang said before being nailed to the cross. "I'm doing it because of my mother, who got sick and got well. I will continue this if God permits me to live on. I will go for another 25 years."

In many cases, those who stop by to take part in the ritual, that gives the ceremony a festive atmosphere, an opportunity for neighbours to socialise while fulfilling burden. Food and other expenses for the week can

run as high as 15,000 pesos (\$535) — more than three month's salary for many ordinary farmers or factory workers.

Status of saints, virtually a must at a Pabasa, can cost up to 60,000 pesos (\$2,100). Poor sponsors sometimes borrow status from wealthier relatives or friends.

"It's only once a year," said Socorro Aneno, 51, whose family has been sponsoring Pabasas here for generations. "But we consider it as an act of charity to feed the people and to pray."

Several sponsors said their families began playing host to such rituals to fulfill religious vows, made for such cases as recovery from illness or births of small children.

In a gesture toward modernity, some sponsors set up electronic sound systems provided by relatives working abroad. Whole families take part, from grandpa-

to small children.

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turn as high as 15,000 pesos (\$535)

## Soviet foreign minister in Tokyo to prepare for Gorbachev visit

TOKYO (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh arrived Friday to prepare for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit next month, the first-ever trip to Japan by a Soviet head of state.

Bessmertnykh said he would lay the groundwork for a successful summit between Gorbachev and Prime Minister Toshiaki Kaifu, despite a territorial dispute that has prevented the signing of a peace treaty to formally end wartime hostilities between the two nations.

"I will try to examine and find solutions for the most difficult problems existing between our two countries," Bessmertnykh said after arriving.

"Upcoming meetings (in Tokyo) ... will provide solid ground for realising an effective summit between the Soviet and Japanese leaders," he said.

In recent weeks, officials in both countries have cautiously indicated they hope to resolve the 45-year-old dispute over the Kuril Islands through Gorbachev's visit.

Japan has said settlement would pave the way for the signing of a peace treaty, the prerequisite for increased investment and aid for the ailing Soviet economy.

The Soviets seized the group of islands off Japan's northern coast in the final days of World War II, expelling 16,000 residents. Soviets have since occupied their abandoned fishing villages.

Japanese officials have suggested Moscow agree to a gradual return of the islands, returning two smaller islands first and negotiating a later handover of the others.

The Soviet Union agreed in 1956 to return two islands. But after Japan signed a security treaty with the United States in the same year, Moscow ignored the

Japanese claim and refused to negotiate, claiming it didn't want such a close neighbour to be allied with its then-cold war enemy.

A survey released Friday by the Nikkei Shimbun, a leading financial newspaper, showed a majority of Japanese would agree to a phased return of the islands.

The telephone poll of 10,000 people found 65.6 per cent would agree to a gradual return, 17.6 per cent wanted all the territory returned at once, 1.7 per cent wanted only two islands to be returned, and 5.1 per cent were satisfied with the current situation.

The remaining 7 per cent did not reply, it said. No margin of error was provided.

During his visit, Bessmertnykh is expected to meet with Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to discuss international and bilateral issues.

Up to 16 bilateral agreements are being prepared for signing during the Soviet president's visit, his foreign minister has said.

"High-level talks between the two countries will open up a genuine good neighbour, mutualistic relationship," Bessmertnykh said after his arrival in Tokyo.

## COLUMN

### Sleepwalker loses appeal against insanity

LONDON (R) — A Briton who was detained in a mental hospital for attacking a woman friend while sleepwalking failed in an appeal to establish that he was not insane. Barry Burgess, 34, was judged not guilty but insane for hitting his victim with a bottle, and trying to throttle her after they fell asleep, having watched a video called Night Train to Terror. He was ordered detained in a mental hospital by a court in Bristol, western England, in July 1989, and was later released.

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**Depardieu may sue U.S. publication**

PARIS (AP) — French film star Gerard Depardieu has said he will sue "enormously" if American publications do not retract their stories about his purported involvement in a rape at the age of 9. The actor, who is at the centre of a trans-Atlantic storm over an interview published in the Feb. 4 edition of Time magazine, denied saying he had participated in a rape. His U.S. lawyer, meanwhile, blamed the controversy on a mistranslation of a French verb. He said the verb meant "witness" rather than "participate." "I'm really going to attack because I can't stand the label 'oscar, Depardieu, rapist,'" Depardieu told Europe 1 Radio host Jean-Pierre Elkabbach. The actor spoke from the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, where he is shooting a movie. "It's low, it's pathetic. I find the whole thing monstrous and disgusting, really disgusting," he said. Depardieu was nominated for best actor at Monday night's Hollywood award ceremonies for his performance in the title role of Cyrano De Bergerac, but lost to Jeremy Irons for Revival Of Fortune.

**New asteroid may be a dead comet**

SYDNEY (R) — A rocky asteroid some five kilometres across, suspected of being a dead comet, has been found in an unusual orbit between Mars and Uranus. Australian astronomers said the asteroid, named 1991 DA, has an orbit so unexpected that its discovery may revise theories on the origin and evolution of the solar system and the Earth. Adelaide University group leader Duncan Steel said by telephone. "We've got to explain where it came from," said Steel. "There is no sign that it is anything but a great big lump of rock, but it's in an orbit where you expect to find comets." The asteroid was found in February by the siding spring observatory in Australia and has since been confirmed by other telescopes in Australia and Chile.

No cloud of other material was found near the asteroid, as would be expected for a comet, the astronomers said in a statement.

Comets are thought to be balls of ice which periodically flare up as they near the sun in their usually far-flung orbits. Asteroids are a belt of small bodies rotating around the sun in orbits between those of Mars and Jupiter. Only two other objects similar to 1991 DA have been found, the last 14 years ago. One of them is showing signs of being a dormant comet, Steel said.

**Taiwan to end draft dodging by fat people**

TAIPEI (R) — Soon only the fittest of the fat will escape Taiwan's rigorous military service. Faced with ballooning numbers of overweight draftees, Taiwan's Defence Ministry will raise